Week Two: Importance of Appearance (cont.)

Entering or Leaving a House

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DRESS PROPERLY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

[1] Dress properly, even among friends and relatives.

[2] Dress properly when visiting your parents, a pious person, an elder, or even a relative or a friend.

[3] Your attire should be clean and elegant, not ugly or unsightly.

[4] Imam Bukhari in his book, 'Al-Adab Al-Mufrad' reported that the great follower Abi Al-'Alia Al-Riahi Al-Basri said, 'Muslims were at their best when visiting each other.'

[5] Al-Hafez Al- Haithami in 'Majma Al-Zawaed' (1:169) reported that Thabet Al-Banani, the student of Imam Anas bin Malik said, 'When I used to visit Anas, he would call for a perfume and run it along his cheeks.'

[6] Change for your visitor.

NOTES

ENTERING OR LEAVING A HOUSE

HOW TO ENTER

[1] Enter or leave your house with your right foot first.

[2] Imaam Abul Ala Hasan ibn Ahmad al-Hamazani, a great scholar of Hadith of his time, was so keen on applying this Sunnah to the extent that if someone entered his house with their left foot first, he would ask them to go out and re-enter with their right foot first.

[3] When entering or leaving a house, do not push the door violently, or slam it shut, or leave it to close by itself wildly.

[4] Close the door quietly with your hand.

[5[Hadith reported by Imam Muslim whereby 'Aisha (RA) quotes the Prophet: 'Gentleness adorns every act. Its absence will tarnish it.'

NOTES

ENTERING WHILE OTHERS ARE ASLEEP

[1] Be quiet and gentle. Be considerate.

[2] Do not cause any undue noise when entering or exiting.

[3] Saying of the Prophet (PBUH): 'Whoever is deprived of gentleness, is deprived of all sorts of goodness.'

[4] Muslim and Al-Tirmidhi reported that the honourable companion Al- Miqdad bin Al-Aswad (RA) said: 'We used to preserve the Prophet's share of the milk, when he came back at night he would greet us with a voice loud enough for those awake to hear, without disturbing those who were asleep.' In addition, whenever the Prophet used to pray at night, he would recite the Quran with a voice that pleased those that were awake, without disturbing those that were asleep.'

[5] Princess Qatrul Nada (Dew point) was famous for her intelligence, manners and beauty. She was the daughter of Khimarwaih bin Ahmad bin Toulon, the King of Egypt. She married Al- Mu'taded Billah. Qatrul Nada said: 'My father taught me an important manner - do not sleep among sitting people and do not sit among sleeping people.''

NOTES

GREETING

[1] When entering or leaving your house, acknowledge those inside.

[2] Say: 'Assalam 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh; Peace and mercy of Allah be with you.'

[3] Do not use Unislamic greetings.

[4] Imam Al Tirmizi reported that Anas said: 'The Messenger of Allah said to me, 'My son, greet your family when you enter [your home], for that is a blessing for you and your family.''

[5] Qatada, a prominent follower (Tabi'y), said: 'Greet your family when you enter your house. They are the most worthy of your greeting.'

[6] Al- Tirmidhi reported another Hadith whereby Abu Huraira (RA) stated that the Messenger of Allah ((PBUH)) said: 'If you join a gathering, greet them, and if you want to leave, dismiss yourself. The first is no less important than the second.'

[7] Imam Al-Suyuti in his book 'Praising the Abyssinians' cited from Abo Taleb Al-Jumahi's Al- Tahyat the following: 'Every nation has a way of greeting. Arabs will say salams. Persians Emperors require prostrating and kissing the floor. The Persians touch their hand on the floor in front of the king. The Abyssinians quietly, gather their hands at their chest. The Romans uncover their head and bow. The Nubians would gesture as if kissing the guest and then putting both hands on their face.' All these greetings, except Salam, are forbidden.

[8] Imam Nawawi in Al-Majmu said 'It is preferred to say 'Bismillahi Arrahman Arrahim' when you enter your house or others' houses. You ought to say Salam if you enter it regardless whether it was empty or occupied. You say a prayer when you go out.

[9] Tirmizi and Abu Dawood narrated a Hadith by Anas that the Prophet said: 'If you say in the name of Allah, I seek help from Allah, no strength or means but with Allah. Then he will be told: you are protected and saved. The Satan will leave him.

[10] He cited another Hadith narrated by Muslim that Jaber bin Abdullah related that he heard the Prophet, peace be upon him, saying: 'If you enter your house and pray to Allah when entering and before your meals, the Satan will say [to his group]: No sleep and no food. If you entered it without praying to Allah. Satan will say [to his group]: You secured your sleep and dinner.'

NOTES

ANNOUNCING YOUR PRESENCE

[1] When entering a house, make your presence known to those inside before you approach them.

[2] Avoid startling or frightening them.

[3] Abu 'Ubaida 'Àmer bin 'Abdullah bin Mas'wüd (RA) said: 'My father 'Abdullah ibn Mas'wüd used to announce his arrival by addressing his family in a cordial tone.

[4] Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal said: 'When a person enters his house, it is recommended that he/she creates noise by coughing or tapping his/her shoes.' His son Abdullah said: 'When returning home from the mosque, my father used to announce his arrival before entering, by tapping with his shoes or coughing.'

[5] Bukhari and Muslim reported that the Prophet denounced those who unexpectedly surprise their families at night, whether returning from travel or otherwise, because it makes them appear to be distrustful.

NOTES

SEEKING PERMISSION TO ENTER

[1] Ask family members for permission and/or knock on the door.

[2] In the Muwata by 'Ata ibn Yasar, Imam Malik narrated that a man asked the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) the following: 'Should I seek permission to enter my mother's room?' The Prophet answered, 'Yes.' The man said, 'We live together in the same house.' The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, 'Ask for permission to join her.' The man argued, 'But, I am her servant.' The Prophet said, 'Ask for permission. Would you like to see her naked?' The man replied, 'No!' The Prophet said, 'Then ask permission when entering.'

[3] A man asked 'Abdullah bin Mas'wüd: 'Should I ask permission to enter my mother's room?' He answered him, 'Yes. There are certain circumstances in which you would rather not see her. '

[4] Zaynab, the wife of 'Abdullah ibn Mas'wüd said that upon reaching the door, 'Abdullah used to make noise, fearing that he might surprise us and encounter an embarrassing situation.

[5] A man asked Huzaifa ibn Al-Yaman, 'Should I ask permission to enter my mother's?' Huzaifa replied, 'Yes, if you do not ask for her permission, you may encounter an embarrassing situation.'

[6] Müsa the son of the companion Talha ibn 'Obaidillah said: 'My father went to my mother's room. I followed him as he entered, he turned toward me and pushed me down forcing me to sit. Then he reprimanded me: 'How dare you to enter without permission?'

[7] Nafi,' the patron of 'Abdullah bin Omar said: 'When any of Ibn Omar's children come of age, Ibn Omar would assign him/her another room. He would not allow any of them to enter his room without permission.'

[8] 'Ata bin Abi Rabah asked Ibn 'Abbas: 'Should I seek permission when calling on my two sisters?' Ibn Abbas answered, 'Yes.' I said: 'I am their guardian, supporter and provider of their needs.' He said, 'Would you rather see them naked?' Then he read the Quranic verse:

'And when the children among you come of age, let them ask for permission, as do those senior to them in age; thus does Allah make clear His signs. Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.'

Thus, Ibn 'Abbas concluded that asking permission is obligatory for all people.

[9] Ibn Mas'wüd said: 'A person should seek permission whenever entering the room of a father, mother, brother and sister.'

[10] Jaber also said: 'A person should seek permission whenever entering the room of a son, a daughter, a mother -even if she is old, a brother, a sister, or a father.'

NOTES

KNOCKING AND RINGING

[1] Knock at the door, or ring the door's bell in a pleasant way

[2] Do not knock loudly and violently or ring the bell continuously.

[3] A woman came to Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal seeking his opinion on a religious matter. She banged at his door loudly. He came out saying, 'This is the banging of policemen.'

[4] Al-Bukhari reported in Al-Adab Al-Mufrad that the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) used to knock on the door of the Prophet with the tips of their nails

[5] The Prophet (PBUH) said, 'Gentleness adorns every act, its absence will tarnish it.'

[6] In addition, Muslim reported that the Prophet also said, 'Whoever lacks kindness, lacks all good things.'

[7] Leave an adequate time between two knocks, or rings.

[8] After three spaced knocks, or intermittent rings, leave.

[9] Al-Bukhari and Muslim reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said: 'If you asked permission three times, and were not granted permission, then you must leave.'

[10] While waiting for permission, do not stand in front of the door. Instead, stand to the right or to the left.

[11] The Messenger of Allah (PBUH), upon coming to someone's door, avoided facing the door directly. Instead, he would stand to the right or to the left of the door.

NOTES

ANSWERING 'WHO IS IT'

[1] Identify yourself, using your most common name.

[2] Do not respond with, 'It is me,' 'Somebody,' or, 'Guess who?'

[3] The Prophet (PBUH) discouraged people from saying 'it's me' because it does not reveal your name.

[4] Bukhari and Muslim reported that Jabir bin 'Abdullah said: 'I came to the Prophet (PBUH) and knocked on his door, and he asked, 'Who is it?' I answered, 'It is me,' and the Prophet (PBUH) disapprovingly said, ' Me is me, me is me!' '

[5] The companions used to mention their names whenever they were asked, 'Who is it?'

[6] Bukhari and Muslim reported that Abu Zar said: 'While walking out one night I saw the Messenger of Allah walking by himself. I opted to walk in the shade of the moon, but he turned around and saw me and said, 'Who is there?' I replied, 'It's Abu Zar.'

[7] Bukhari and Muslim also reported that Umm Hani, a cousin of the Prophet (PBUH), and the sister of 'Ali bin Abi Talib, said: 'I came to see the Prophet (PBUH). He was taking a bath and his daughter Fatima was sheltering him, and he asked 'who is this?' I replied, 'I am Umm Hani.'

NOTES